

Message Text

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46

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 CCO-00 OC-05 OPR-02

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----- 055466

R 091234Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8636

WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS PARIS 07006

DEPT FOR A AND WE, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR
CAPTAIN HOWE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER) FR

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL STATEMENT

1. MR. MINISTER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

2. I SET FOOT ON FRENCH SOIL TODAY IN WITNESS OF, AND
IN TRIBUTE TO, THE DEEP AFFECTION AND HIGH ESTEEM IN
WHICH AMERICANS HOLD THE FRENCH NATION AND PEOPLE.
THE BONDS WHICH UNITE OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN
FORGED BY TWO CENTURIES OF IDEALS JOINTLY PURSUED, OF
TRUTHS MUTUALLY HELD TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, AND OF BLOOD
SHED IN COMMON CAUSE. THE MATERIAL AND HUMAN
RESOURCES WHICH FRANCE FURNISHED THE AMERICAN COLONIES
IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE WILL NEVER BE
FORGOTTEN OR GO UNAPPRECIATED. OUR ALLIANCE, SEALED IN
THE BIRTHPANGS OF THE NEW REPUBLIC, HAS SURVIVED
ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF VIOLENT SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL CHANGE, REVOLUTIONS AND WARS; IT HAS
HELPED ASSURE TO OUR CITIZENS A BODY OF PERSONAL
LIBERTIES UNKNOWN TO NINE-TENTHS OF THE INHABITANTS
OF THIS PLANET. ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO FRANCE PRE-
SENTED TO THE AMERICAN NATION THE STATUE OF LIBERTY
IN NEW YORK HARBOR -- A GIFT WHICH REMINDS US THAT
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EVEN THE WORD "LIBERTY" COMES TO US FROM THE FRENCH.

3. TODAY PERCEIVED SELF-INTEREST, ECONOMIC INTER-DEPENDENCE, AND THE SOBER REALITIES OF A DANGEROUS AND UNCERTAIN WORLD ALL ARGUE FOR CONTINUED CLOSE TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. BUT THESE REASONS, SUFFICIENT IN THEMSELVES, DO NOT TELL THE WHOLE STORY. FOR THE UNIQUE FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP IS, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, AS MUCH A MATTER OF HEART AS OF REASON. AND THE HEART, AS PASCAL REMINDS US, "A SES RAISONS QUE LA RAISON NE CONNAIT POINT." AND IT IS FROM HER HEART THAT AMERICA SALUTES THE FRENCH PEOPLE IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR. WE SALUTE YOU IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF ALL WE HAVE SHARED AND ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER DURING THE PAST TWO CENTURIES; AND WE SALUTE YOU IN THE COMFORTING ASSURANCE THAT WE WILL BE FACING THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT TWO CENTURIES TOGETHER.

4. THANK YOU.
RUSH

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NNN

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